

In the Claims:

1 **1.** (Original) Semifinished product of composite material,
2 consisting of a metallic matrix material (11) and of high
3 tensile strength fibers (12) embedded in the matrix
4 material (11), whereby the metallic matrix material (11) is
5 formed of titanium or a titanium based alloy, characterized
6 in that ceramic particles (13) are encased or embedded in
7 the matrix material (11) for increasing the strength of the
8 semifinished product with respect to torsional loading or
9 transverse loading.

1 **2.** (Original) Semifinished product according to claim 1,
2 characterized in that the embedded ceramic particles (13)
3 comprise a size in the micron range to the nanometer range.

Claims 3 to 5 (Canceled).

1 **6.** (Original) Method for the production of a semifinished
2 product (10) of composite material, in which fibers (12)
3 that are of high tensile strength as well as coated
4 metallically namely with titanium or a titanium based alloy
5 are consolidated under the influence of pressure at high
6 temperature to form the semifinished product (10),
7 characterized in that in connection with the coating of the

8 high tensile strength fibers (12) with titanium or the
9 titanium based alloy, ceramic particles (13) are embedded
10 in the coating of the fibers, whereby the thusly coated
11 fibers are arranged in a desired geometry and consolidated
12 to form the semifinished product.

1 7. (Original) Method according to claim 6, characterized in
2 that the coating of the high tensile strength fibers (12)
3 with titanium or the titanium based alloy is carried out
4 under a reactive atmosphere.

1 8. (Original) Method according to claim 7, characterized in
2 that the coating of the high tensile strength fibers (12)
3 with titanium or the titanium based alloy is carried out
4 under a nitrogen atmosphere, whereby nitrogen atoms
5 together with titanium particles or particles of the
6 titanium based alloy deposit ceramic particles (13) into
7 the coating.

1 9. (Original) Method according to claim 8, characterized in
2 that ceramic particles (13) in the form of titanium
3 nitrides are deposited into the coating.

Claim 10 (Canceled).

[REMARKS FOLLOW ON NEXT PAGE]